

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME 5 - NUMBER 4

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1957

(Story on Page 11)



A. B. Snell presenting Volume I of
the Interpreter's Bible to Supt. Erston
M. Butterfield while Mrs. Butterfield,
Kathleen and Diane hold their gifts.

WHY THE NAME . . . "THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST"

By Jesse H. Dollar

There has been some stirring of hearts among our people especially in the Southeast Convention, over the name that has been chosen for the new church to be formed by the union of our Congregational Christian Churches with the Evangelical Reformed Church. As "one of the boys" of the Southeast area, I know why that concern is so widely felt. It is because we have, throughout the Southeast Convention, a denomination known as "The Church of Christ." It is felt that there will be a lot of confusion over the similarity of names. There may be some. But let us remember that the vast difference in the polity and practices of The United Church of Christ and the Church of Christ will bring quick and clear distinction between the two.

Why the name? Much searching of hearts went into the choosing of the name of the new church. Be assured of that. Through this union we are trying to cut a pattern, to sew a garment, and "to make of many ONE". How successful this venture would become would depend on the name by which the new church would be called. To be success-

ful, in the true sense of the word, it will not become simply another denomination. It had to lose all denominational identity. It had to be something NEW. So, our leaders followed what has become the established pattern and plan of church leaders in other lands. It is hoped that the foundations of Christian Union, and Unity, shall be broad enough in name and doctrine to become an open door to all the followers of Christ who want to help bring together the shredded body of Christ in America. We have only to look what has happened in Canada, Japan, China, India and the Philippines to see examples of what we are striving for — a United Church of Christ in America! In all these countries "Many have become One" under the same name that we propose for our united church.

Since our purpose is not to bring into being another denomination, but to become a Voice of Unity for the bringing together of the fragments of Christ's Church, I do not fear that we shall be embarrassingly confused with a group whose passion seems to be to point up their differences to other members of the Body of Christ, and whose theology is cut to fit their passion. As Dr. Hoskins, our new Minister of the General

Council, said, in speaking to the General Synod of the Evangelical & Reformed Church the other day, "We come to the union believing that it will be an effective and significant blow against the denominational barriers which segment the whole church of Christ."

It would have been impossible to choose a name which would have pleased everyone. But when we stand before the name we have chosen and study its outreach and feel the surge of the movement for Christian Union which it heralds, we cannot but think that it is more representative of the purposes to be achieved through The United Church of Christ than any other name we know. It may not be a perfect name, but its Head and its Spirit are perfection itself. If we keep our minds and hearts centered upon Him, I have no fears that the work we shall do in the world will distinguish us clearly from any group, though names may have some similarity. Our purpose is to unite the body of Christ, and with 2,090,000 Christians united under the name of Christ, and motivated by his prayer that "they all may be one", is distinctive enough to clear the atmosphere for our work and leave far behind those who have lesser vision and purpose.

The Christian Orphanage — 1906 - 1956

The Christian Orphanage, Inc., is a child-caring institution, operated by a Board of Trustees for the Southern Convention of Congregational Christian Churches. It is located in the town of Elon College, N. C., in Alamance County. It cares for orphans and homeless children of many denominations — and of no denomination — to the limit of its capacity. It has three brick buildings, one for girls, one for boys, and one for the very small boys and girls.

The Christian Orphanage is a Christian "family", staffed with workers who are conscientiously trying to train the children both by precept and example in the Christian way of life. Each looks at his chosen work as a way of making a contribution toward the training of needy children. It is an exacting task with long hours, but has its joys and satisfactions.

The Christian Orphanage operates a farm and dairy. There are milk, pork,

chickens and eggs, and vegetables. Much of the food is furnished thereby, and pleasant and instructive work is provided. Girls learn to cook, sew, and keep house by the chores assigned them.

The Christian Orphanage sends its children to the Elon Community Church and Sunday School; has many worship services for them on their own campus; and seeks to bring them up in the atmosphere of a Christian home.

The Christian Orphanage sends its children to the public school in the community giving them normal contact with others. They enter freely into all phases of school life. The Orphanage pays all their textbook and instructional materials fees.

The Christian Orphanage needs your support for the cost of food, clothing, matron's service, the upkeep of the buildings, insurance, major repairs, medical attention, and all that goes with

On the first day of January Dr. Paul

Dr. Reynolds III

R. Reynolds, pastor of the Pleasant Hill Community Church and director of the Community Center, suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized for 17 days.

After a week's rest, Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds left for a visit with their doctor son and his wife Jo in the country near St. Louis. They will remain about two weeks, returning to Pleasant Hill and a restricted schedule.

giving 80 children clothes, food, and care. Unfortunately the Orphanage runs on the "hand to mouth" financial status. There are no reserve funds.

You realize the importance of this project when you try to secure a place for some needy, homeless child. The hardest job of the superintendent is saying "no"; the next hardest is securing enough money to keep the institution doing its work.

SEC ANNUAL MEETING

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches will be held in LaGrange, Ga., at the United Congregational Christian Church on March 30-31.

It was decided to hold the meeting on Saturday and Sunday this year, in the hope that more delegates would be able to attend.

The theme will be "United in Christ"; and the hymn "The Church's One Foundation." Information regarding speakers and program will go out early in February to ministers and church clerks. The program committee consists of the Superintendent, the Registrar, the Moderator, the host pastor with the Rev. Collie Seymour and the Rev. Arnold Slater.

A Nominating Committee was elected by the Board of Directors on Jan. 4, and consists of Paul Beaird, chairman, with Rufus Obrecht, the Rev. Raymond Berry, the Rev. Hugh Lasseter and A. B. Snell.

This committee will prepare a slate of officers and committee members to be presented to delegates. Nominations from the floor will also be in order.

AVON PARK MEETING

The Southeast Regional Meeting will be held this year beginning on the evening of Feb. 26 and continuing through breakfast March 1 at Avon Park, Fla. Delegates from the Southeast Convention, the Southern Convention, the Convention of the South and the Florida Conference will be in attendance.

The theme for the 1957 meeting is "Communicating the Gospel", with the Rev. Everett C. Parker, director of the Office of Communication, coordinating the program.

Leaders for the various group meetings will be Dr. W. C. Timmons, formerly of the Department of Evangelism; Dr. Herman Long, of the Council for Social Action; Mr. George Hastings, Moderator of the General Council; the Rev. Robert Spike, of the Department of Evangelism; Dr. Wesley A. Hotchkiss, director of the Town and Country Department; and Mr. Ketchum, representing the Church Building Department.

Members of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention will receive first consideration as delegates, with officers and committee chairmen preferred.

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Southeast Convention Pilgrim Fellowship will be held March 16-17 in Central Congregational Church in Atlanta. This will be the third annual meeting and plans are well in hand for a wonderful weekend of inspiration and fellowship.

The Rev. Robert Knowles, national P. F. leader, will participate in the leadership for this meeting, which includes the Reverends John B. Crutcher, Herman Ritter, Robert Yoh, Carroll Lewis, Raymond Berry, Arnold Slater and SEC Pilgrim Fellowship officers and chairmen as follows: V. R. Dobson, Millard Fuller, Sandra Ellerbee, Frank Little, Jean Vincent, Bettye Cunningham, Gene Watson, Albert Van Cleave and Bill Green.

The tentative program and information has already gone out to ministers and young people. Registration fee will be \$3.50 per delegate, which includes over-night entertainment and all meals.

Georgia-South Carolina Adopts Constitution

At a called meeting of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference, held at the Atlanta Center Church on Jan. 16, a constitution and by-laws was adopted unanimously by the ministers and delegates of 16 churches.

The Moderator, the Rev. Goff Bedford of Tifton, Ga., presided over the meeting. Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, Associate Minister of the General Council, was present as a visitor and was given the privilege of the floor to answer questions regarding the polity and practice of Congregational Christian Churches.

The Rev. W. W. Elder, pastor of the Woodbury Jones Chapel Church, received an ovation from the delegates after his plea for unity and Christian charity, and an end to obstructionist tactics.

The women of Center Church served a delicious luncheon to the more than 75 delegates and visitors.

After the adoption of the Constitution, the following motions were made and passed: 1) that the Constitution go into effect immediately; 2) that the present officers continue in office until the annual fall meeting; 3) that each minister and local church receive a copy of the Constitution in its final form, as a-

Each P. F. group is entitled to four youth and one adult delegates.

A special workshop program has been planned for the adult advisors, ministers and other youth leaders on Christian Leadership, to be led by the Rev. Robert Knowles. This should be helpful to all adult leaders who work with young people in the church program.

Other workshop sessions have been planned on **Christian Faith**, which will include Bible Study, the Merger, Worship, and Vocations; **Christian Action**, to include Southeast Asia Missions, Problems Challenging Young People Today, Projects and How to Promote Them, and Work Day for Christ; **Christian Fellowship**, to include Recreation, Public Relations, and Beliefs of Jewish and Catholics.

Registration cards should be sent to Bill Green, Rt. 3, Roanoke, Ala., by March 1st.

MIDWINTER MEETING

The annual Midwinter Meeting of the Congregational Christian denomination is being held at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., Jan. 28-31.

The purpose of this meeting is to advance Our Christian World Mission, and the theme is "Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole."

All the national boards are represented — the Missions Council, American Board, Board of Home Missions, Council for Social Action, and the Service Committee.

Representatives from the Southeast Convention are: the Rev. Annie R. Campbell, secretary of the National Christian Education Council; the Rev. Arnold Slater, representing the Southeast Convention; Mrs. Arnold Slater and Mrs. A. D. Harry, and Miss Miriam Heermans, representing the Woman's Fellowship; and A. B. Snell, representing the Laymen. Mr. Snell is also on the program with his promotion and publicity presentation.

mended during the meeting; 4) that appreciation and thanks be extended to the Constitution Committee and confidence expressed in the Conference officers; 5) that appreciation be expressed

(Continued on Page 9)

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Entered as Second Class matter at the
Post Office of Atlanta, Georgia

Published monthly by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION of Congregational Christian Churches

673 Piedmont Avenue N. E.
Atlanta, Ga. ATwood 2558

Single Subscription \$1.75 per year
Group Subscription \$1.50 per year

STAFF

Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Supt. Editor
Rev. Annie Campbell, Minister Christian Education

Mrs. Ed A. Albright Registrar
Mrs. Jettie Logan Promotion

Printed by The Roanoke Leader,
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 5 Jan. - Feb. 1957 Number 4

Latest Word About Hungarian Refugees

Dear Friends,

Of 1118 refugees who have arrived at Camp Kilmer assigned to CWS (Protestant resettlement), 452 have been placed; 666 are still there, and only a part of that number have been cleared for placement. Not a one so far has been referred to us.

The best chance to secure a refugee family is to work through your local Council of Churches.

It is not likely that any refugees will be available for individual Congregational Christian churches for some time — if at all. Other denominations, Presbyterians especially, have much closer confessional ties and much stronger claims put forward by many more churches.

A great many of these people are young and single. Probably most of them are from an urban or suburban background, and will not fit easily into a rural environment.

There are no orphans among the Hungarian refugees, so far.

Remember that money and warm clothing are still needed. Send clothing to your Congregational Christian Service Committee and money to the Southeast Convention office.

Brotherhood Week— February 17-24

The fact that all men are brothers was never fully realized until Christ came into the world. He exemplified it in his own person and life. He was the Son of Man. He was born in a Jewish home and his ancestors were Jewish, but He did not "belong" to any particular race. In the Old Testament period, the fact that all men are brothers was scarcely recognized. Once in a while one of the great prophets arose and declared it, but the people themselves never fully accepted it.

Now one's conception of God always determines one's idea of humanity and one's relation to other people. If we have a narrow conception of God we will necessarily have a narrow and distorted idea of humanity. If, on the other hand, we have a proper idea of God we will have a right conception of man. Christ came to give us a new revelation of God. Before His coming, God was thought of as a tribal deity interested only in men of the "tribe". In the thinking, preaching and living of Christ, God was a universal Father, the Father of all men. He made it very clear that God was over all and in all, that in relation to mankind He was no respecter of persons, that He did not draw a line between different races and nationalities.

Christ also gave us a new estimate of man. Before His coming, society was divided into classes and groups. There were barriers which separated men. Some were racial, some were national, some were social and religious. Christ's attitude was different. He knew what was in man. The incidental thing of color and class and cash had no significance with Him. He saw in every man a child of God and recognized a brother in everyone. He was interested in men. He came to rescue them. There was no one too poverty-stricken, ignorant or steeped in sin but that he could be reclaimed . . . if that person wanted to begin life anew. In parable, in story, in practical effort He taught this great truth. The image of God in man may be temporarily obscured, but it is there and can be restored.

These two facts involve certain obligations for us who would follow Christ and live the Gospel. We can no longer live to ourselves. If we are of one common stock we naturally are much alike

Washington's Prayer

Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government and entertain a brother affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And, finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to deem ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

and it is up to us to discover these likenesses in order that we may develop them. All over the world this is happening . . . slowly, but surely. The areas of the world where it is not happening are the trouble spots where there is war and strife and bloodshed. Wherever there is hate and suspicion, prejudice and injustice, there you find violence and bloodshed. Where there is love and concern for fellow men, there you will find peace and justice for all.

If we ourselves are to prove a worthy follower of Christ and a good brother to others, it is a part of our task to help all men toward an appreciation of the good things of the earth. We must realize there are certain rights and privileges that belong to all, and that these must be respected.

We must bear in mind that what hurts one is very apt to hurt others. Poor housing conditions, bad working conditions, poverty and social injustice do not fit into God's plan for the world. It is not in God's plan that some children shall live in caves without proper food, clothing and medical care, as is happening in other countries. Our hearts are touched, and we send money, food and clothing to them.

Neither is it the will of God that some people shall live in misery and constant fear — of ruthless dictators, of unemployment, of injustice from their fellow men.

We are all familiar with the Cross—

(Continued on Page 9)

The Superintendent's Page

A Farewell Message

I wish that I could greet each one of you personally and tell you how wonderful it has been to know you, to have your friendship, and to have had this opportunity to share with you in the Mission that is the Church. In the years which lie ahead, these years will be remembered as among the most enjoyable, challenging and enriching of my life. Thank you.

And now, as I leave, let me assure you of my continuing interest and concern for our churches of the South. We shall have no cause for shame, trouble or fear in the future if we remain true to our Congregational Christian heritage. Let us be thoroughly "Congregational" in our organization and procedures, and thoroughly "Christian" in our beliefs and actions.

Let us be people of **The Humble Heart**, clearly seeing ourselves for what we are with all our limitations, shortcomings and "sins". We trust not in our merit but in God's forgiving grace. Only the humble heart can deliver us from sinful pride and the feeling that we're better than others. Together we strive to grow more like unto the stature of Jesus the Christ.

Let us be people of **The Open Mind**. It was John Robinson, pastor of the Pilgrims in Holland, who reminded our religious forefathers as they set sail for the new world, "God hath more truth and light to break forth out of His Holy word". God is constantly revealing Himself — His will and Way — through the Bible, through the discoveries of science; through Christ-like people; and through the happenings of history.

"New occasions teach new duties. Time makes ancient good uncouth. They must upward still, and onward, who

would keep abreast of truth."

Only by keeping an open mind can we gain the "new truth" and "new light" that God would reveal to us for the living of these days.

Let us be people of **The Expectant Attitude**. Every time we gather to worship, let's expect something wonderful to happen and it will. Time in God's presence should make changes within us. If one feels unchanged after a service in the church, he has not truly worshipped. God can do great things for us, and through us. He can change us and others and even the course of history, if we let Him. We dare not oppose "change" for it is God's way of bringing His world nearer unto Himself. In the Expectant Attitude we will welcome the opportunity to change for the better and help make the world what it ought to be.

Let us be people of **The Sacrificing Spirit**. Our sacrifice shall not be known by our boastings, but by our eager yielding of our will to His — our comfort to His demand and our desires to His Way. If our Christianity costs us nothing, it is not the real thing. If we brag about what it costs, we have lost it altogether. Jesus asked, "What do ye more than others?" and our lives must give the answer. With the sacrificing spirit we will dare and share and care and so fulfill our mission.

Let us be people of **The Determined Will**. In the humble seeking of God's will we will find His way; and once we have found it, we must do His will and that only. We see this clearly in the life of the Master in the words, "and He set His face steadfast to go to Jerusalem." With the Determined Will we will seek and find and do, following in the



THE REV. E. M. BUTTERFIELD

footsteps of the Master.

Finally, let us be people of **The Triumphant Life**. In full knowledge of God's wisdom and love and care, we can rise above the confusions, turmoil, worries and fears of this world. Our faith and trust are in Him who says, now as then, "Be of good cheer for I have overcome the world."

The Humble Heart, The Open Mind, The Expectant Attitude, The Sacrificing Spirit, The Determined Will, The Triumphant Life — will make us strong to fulfill our destiny, here and in all the world, now and forever.

And so life calls us to the quest
To live, to love, to work, to play,
To serve, to sacrifice, to pray.
Life calls, and it must have our best.

Amen

TIME TO SHARE

One Great Hour of Sharing is the principal observance of the United Appeal sponsored by Church World Service to aid its 35 cooperating denominations raise funds for those in need and distress overseas.

March 31, 1957 is the date for the ninth annual One Great Hour of Sharing.

Throughout the United States on this Sunday tens of thousands of churches will dedicate special offerings for programs of ministry to the hungry, homeless and destitute abroad.

These funds will be used to provide food, clothing, medicines, and other supplies in emergency situations; for long-term health and nutrition programs; resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees; for self-help projects and vocational training, and other ministries to the homeless and destitute.

All overseas assistance is given entirely on a basis of need — without any question of race, color or creed.

Areas of Need

Austria and Hungary — Refugees by the tens of thousands, hungry for freedom, have crossed the border from Hungary into Austria and other countries. They arrive worn, footsore, hungry and often sick, after perilous journeying through swamps, marshes and across fields. The plight of these homeless refugees has tremendously increased the relief and reconstruction responsibilities of the churches.

Korea — The nation still suffers in every phase of life from the effects of war. War widows, amputees, tuberculars, orphans and the blind must have special care. Of ten million displaced by the war, one in every two needs some kind of help.

Germany — Hundreds a day, escaping from behind the Iron Curtain, still stream into West Germany, continually aggravating and adding to the long-term refugee problem. They live on meager relief grants supplemented by church gifts of food and clothing.

Japan — Floods and typhoons, in the midst of wide-spread unemployment, have brought destitution to hundreds of thousands. Needing special care are the orphaned and tubercular.

Near East — The plight of the Arab refugee is still tragic and unsolved.

Alumni Seek To Raise Scholarship Fund

Southern Union's graduates and former students, now more than five hundred strong, are seeking to undergird the financial basis of the college's scholarship program. Under the leadership of the Rev. W. Raymond Berry '48, minister of the Andalusia Antioch Church, the officers of the Alumni Association have set up a plan whereby they are asking all graduates and former students to "take a coffee break a day" (a donation of 10c per day) for Southern Union. If the former Southern Unionites respond to this plan, their gifts would more than support the entire scholarship program.

Helping Alumni President Berry in this venture are Vice-president M. Golden Cofield '41, and Secretary-treasurer Maxine Powell Jackson (Mrs. Lester Jackson) '36.

A great many of those who have attended Southern Union owe their opportunity for an education to the scholarship program of the college. The Alumni officers feel that this is a real opportunity for those who are a part of the college family to support a vital program.

Malnutrition and disease are rife.

Hong Kong — Destitute and miserable with no regular employment and little food and clothing, hundreds of thousands of refugees from communist China eke out lives of desperation. Housing, medical supplies, food and clothing, and materials for self-help projects are vital.

Pakistan and India — Food shortage is still acute in Pakistan and India, not yet recovered from the disastrous floods of 1955-56. Tens of thousands of square miles of once fertile farmland still lie useless. Grains, seeds, ploughs and farm animals are needed, while the threat of tuberculosis still defies resources available to help health programs.

Greece — Each year brings fresh tragedy to this stricken land where more than 2,000,000 are still in extreme need. Recurring earthquakes, floods and avalanches make this area one of great concern. Work opportunities are few and earnings small. Self-help and food distribution programs continue of highest importance.

LAYMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Board of Directors of the National Laymen's Fellowship has suggested seven emphases for 1957:

- 1) Establish an organization for men in every local church and enrich the program of men's groups now organized.
- 2) Develop personal visitation evangelism and regular church attendance.
- 3) Sponsor full understanding and support of Our Christian World Mission.
- 4) Recruit and train more and better ministers.
- 5) Encourage study of Christian Social Action.
- 6) Challenge men to personal discipline.
- 7) Adopt joint projects with Women's Fellowship and related units of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Any one of these emphases would be a worthwhile program for 1957, but before we in the Southeast Convention can expect to accomplish much on the other six we will need to concentrate on emphasis No. 1—in the local churches, in the associations and conferences, and on the convention level. Although some churches do have a strong and well-organized local group, active in the church and in the community, many more do not. The Laymen's Fellowship belongs to the individual members of the local churches. What do you want to do with it? Shall we continue with a weak, ineffective organization or shall we all put our shoulder to the wheel, working and building together to establish the type of organization in the Southeast Convention that can and will effectively further the Kingdom here on earth.

The annual meeting of the Laymen's Fellowship of the Southeast Convention will be held March 30-31 at LaGrange, Ga., in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention.

Your presence, with your ideas, suggestions, and criticisms, will help to build the kind of Laymen's Fellowship you want.

A. B. Snell, President

No sermon is a failure which starts someone thinking on his own behalf.

Project Of The Month

Let us take you this month on a trip to the "commonwealth" island in the Caribbean: Puerto Rico. The object of our visit is the Ryder Memorial Hospital in Humacao. This 60-bed hospital, since its founding in 1914, has been making a significant contribution to the general health of the surrounding area and is known to thousands as a source of spiritual and physical blessing. Ryder has an outreach that far exceeds its official 60-bed capacity. It deals each year with thousands of persons through its out-patient clinics. It includes on its staff trained persons who believe in going to the root of many of the illnesses which it treats through public health education. Also it is raising the standards of the nursing profession through its new School for Practical Nurses, the first accredited school for the training of practical nurses on the island.

Let us introduce you to some of the staff of more than 70 persons, all of them devoted to the service of their fellowmen. Dr. John Smith, the chief of staff, prepared originally for the ministry, but feeling that this was not enough, he studied medicine as a means of serving the "whole man". Dr. Adaline Pendleton Satterthwaite, a former American Board Missionary in China, is the obstetrician on the staff. "Dr. Penny" is known not only for her skill in medicine but also for her charm and loving kindness to all she serves. Miss Betty McDonald, trained medical social worker, is known far up into the surrounding hills where she goes to teach the people better ways of sanitation and nutrition. Miss Maria Robles, who assists the hospital chaplain, is already known to many in this country as she receives and acknowledges gifts from Friendly Service.

Ryder Memorial Hospital needs right now more than \$75,000 to complete its building program of a new clinic, a laundry and a kitchen. Part of this amount will, of course, be raised in Puerto Rico among the people whom the hospital serves. But we in America must also lend our help.

An excellent new filmstrip on Puerto Rico is now available. Contributions for Ryder may be sent through the SEC office.

North Ala. Association

The first quarterly meeting of the North Alabama Association was held at Mountain Grove Church on Dec. 30. At the regular annual meeting in October delegates realized that many people did not know each other, and it was decided to have quarterly meetings on 5th Sundays to help develop a feeling of unity and fellowship among the people and churches and strengthen our work in North Alabama. Attendance at this first meeting was good, eight of the twelve churches being represented by delegates.

Superintendent Butterfield gave the morning message, following a long tradition of his own ministry by telling the inspiring story of "The Other Wise Man" on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day.

The Mountain Grove people served a bountiful lunch to the delegates.

Mrs. A. D. Harry, of Lanett, Ala., state president of the Women's Fellowship, gave the opening address in the afternoon session. She told of the work, plans and projects of the women of our churches in the six areas of Christian Education, Stewardship, Missionary Education, Social Action, Spiritual Life, and Friendly Service. People in any church can learn about the work and plans, and how to carry on the work, from the manuals and other booklets explaining the work of all groups or organizations in the church. Mrs. Harry closed by saying that the Spiritual must be kept in the forefront of all plans and projects.

The Rev. Claude Warren, interim minister of Birmingham Pilgrim Church, gave a short address, saying his greatest joy in life is proclaiming the gospel of the Lord. Mr. Warren is 75. In meeting and solving the many complex problems and situations facing the church today we must exercise patience and wisdom.

Dr. Guy L. Colbert spoke to the group on the "Sin of Misusing Our Freedom". He pointed out that God gave us the freedom of choice. We sin when we deliberately misuse that freedom to choose evil or the lesser good. Even the best of us are sinful, because of our human limitations of will, understanding and knowledge. This we cannot avoid, and must trust to God's grace for salvation. But the greater sin is to know the right but choose the wrong to satisfy our own pride and prejudice. Un-

Summer Conferences

Remember these dates, and plan your summer accordingly. Ministers will be contacted for leadership, and for promoting the local conference in their churches.

June 9-15 — KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE family camp at Pomona. Dean, the Rev. Harley Patterson of Oak Ridge, Tenn. Asst. Dean and Business Manager, Dr. Paul R. Reynolds of Pleasant Hill, Tenn.

July 14-20 — ALABAMA CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE at Southern Union College. Dean, the Rev. Collie Seymour of Garden City, Ala. Asst. Dean and Business Manager, the Rev. Earl Hand of Headland, Ala.

GEORGIA - SOUTH CAROLINA family camp. Date and place not definite as yet. Dean, the Rev. Edw. Knight of Waycross.

der a free church system such as ours, we must constantly fight against the temptation to abuse our freedom and so sin against God, His Church and our brothers.

The closing address was given by Mr. Butterfield, who explained that the Southeast Convention is all of us, people and churches, working together in the spirit of Christ and to the glory of God for the advancement of His Kingdom here and in all the world.

A new Laymen's Fellowship was organized at the Mt. Lebanon Church of Steele, Ala., on Jan. 12. Mr. Pressley Ingram, of Birmingham, vice-president of the North Alabama Laymen's Fellowship, met with the men and explained the purpose and plans of the Laymen's Fellowship, discussing the work and program in the local church. Allan Sanders, also of Birmingham, spoke to the group, telling of various kinds of meetings, work and projects of men's groups of which he had been a member. The men adopted a constitution and elected the following temporary officers: President, Homer Barnes; Vice-president, L. H. Robinson; Secretary-treasurer, O. C. Stephens.

Three of the North Alabama Association Pilgrim Fellowship officers met with the Mt. Lebanon young people at the same time the men were meeting. Robert Saunders, vice-president, is from Birmingham and came with Mr. In-

(Continued on Page 10)

Church News.....

On Nov. 17 a fellowship supper was held at the Roanoke Lowell Church, followed by a business meeting to elect three Trustees and two Deacons. A committee presented the constitution and by-laws to the members, and they were accepted.

On Nov. 20 a Thanksgiving program for all the churches in Roanoke was held at the Lowell Church. Dr. Staples, pastor of the First Baptist Church, was the speaker.

Attendance in Sunday School and church services is increasing steadily. We have received a large number of new members this past month.

Recently the Every Member Canvass teams visited in the homes to talk to members about the program of our church and the opportunities that are challenging us as a church to go forward. The budget of \$4,865 was well over-subscribed.

We had several men attending the quarterly meeting of the East Alabama-West Georgia Laymen's Fellowship. A good program was presented and was enjoyed by all.

The WMS met last month at the home

of Mrs. Gordon Cavender. A large number was present. Instead of exchanging gifts with one another, we decided to bring gifts for our kitchen in the church. On Dec. 4 we met at the home of Mrs. Wood Philpott for our Christmas program and we exchanged gifts. Each lady brought a covered dish and an old fashioned "pot-luck" supper was enjoyed by all.

Our pastor, the Rev. Charles Bell, attended the Convocation in Wadley last week.

Our Bible Study Class is gradually increasing each Wednesday night. Choir practice is held after the class.

—Mrs. Joe Bob Hunt
and Mrs. John Tom Breed

* * * *

The Rev. Otto Culpepper of Tuskegee, Ala., has accepted a call to the Vanceville and Enigma Churches. He and Mrs. Culpepper moved to Enigma in November.

We highly appreciate their efforts for the benefit of Vanceville Church. Our prayer meeting has increased in attendance more than three times the original

number — we began with only 13 the first two meetings. In order not to interfere with the prayer meeting, the men's and women's fellowships meet Friday nights before each 2nd Sunday.

The regular quarterly Sunday School supper and church conference will fall on Friday nights: January 11, April 12, July 12, and October 11.

A barbecue supper held on Nov. 22 was well attended. Donors were so generous with beef, a hog, chickens, etc., that enough meat was left over for another supper and placed in the home freezer of Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence. We were happy to have the Rev. Henry Abbott and family with us that night.

We sent a Christmas box and some money to little Eugene Ray at the Christian Orphanage at Elon, N. C.; also a small donation to a former pastor, the Rev. R. J. Ellerbee, who is in serious condition.

A Christmas program, "The Manger Scene", was a decided success. Mrs. Albert Mixon did a fine job helping the young people and children carry out their parts. The program began at 7:30 with Christmas carols, then the play, and last the Christmas tree with gifts for all. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening.

On Dec. 23, after a special Christmas sermon by the pastor, the congregation was made happy when Mrs. James Lawrence joined the church on profession of faith.

We were very glad to have with us on Dec. 23 Fred Wilson of Lakewood, Ohio Congregational Christian Church, and Jack Hester of Homestead, Fla. Both were from the air force base at Greenville, S. C., and were visiting the latter's uncle, Albert Mixon, for the holidays.

—Mrs. Rosie Hand, reporter

* * * *

On the afternoon of Jan. 13, the ceremony of "laying the cornerstone" was held at the new Douglas Congregational Christian Church with the Free Masons of Douglas participating in the service.

After the regular morning services, luncheon was served in the dining hall. Afterwards the congregation assembled in the chapel for group singing with solos by Miss Jane Pharr.

The Rev. Ashley E. Hobbs is serving as pastor.

—Vera Turner, publicity chairman



Roanoke Lowell Church EMC Team: Left to Right, front — Clyde Pike, Floyd Walker, Orin Hill, R. W. Breed, Clyde Knight; back row — Rufus Eichelberger, Milton Webb, Tom Breed, Joe Harris and Howard Johnson.



The Rev. Herbert Long admiring "The Money Tree."

Instead of exchanging gifts this Christmas, the members of the East Tallassee Liberty church decided to



The new First Congregational Christian Church of Douglas, Ga.

have a tree with no leaves and hang money from the branches with the idea that the tree would grow into a build-



Bernard Drew, Harvey Stephens (Grand Master) and the Rev. Ashley E. Hobbs.

ing. The building fund was increased by \$278.

The congregation of LaFayette Pleasant Grove Church welcomes its new pastor, the Rev. A. C. Nelson, and his wife. They are endearing themselves to the people of this community.

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, the young people visited the Traylor's Nursing Home for the aged in Roanoke on Dec. 23.

At an informal gathering in the sitting room, the Rev. A. C. Nelson read the Christmas story from St. Luke and followed with a prayer. Then the young people sang Christmas carols and presented the members of the home with individual gifts of fruit. After the singing of the carols, the group was conducted on a tour of the home by Mrs. Traylor.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Ruby Welch for her Christmas gift to our church — a Spinnet Wurlitzer junior size piano. Only those who knew the condition of our old piano can really know the joy we get when singing with this new piano.

The Women's Fellowship enjoyed a family night at the church on Dec. 21. A brief Christmas program was given with Miss Cathleen Adams in charge.

The program was followed by a Christmas tree and social hour. The ladies brought enough small inexpensive gifts for each member of their families.

We gave baskets to 14 people less fortunate than we are, and sent flowers to members of our society and a member of our community who was in the hos-

pital. We sent a love offering to an elderly member of our church who has been ill for several months. The Rev. Mr. Nelson was given a love offering from the church and a "pounding" of groceries by the ladies.

—Lala Allen, reporter

* * * *

"Loyalty Sunday" and the Every Member Canvass was observed by the Mt. Grove Church on Oct. 28. All members who were present at church made their pledge to the support of the church for next year during the morning worship. In the afternoon canvassers visited those who were absent from church. When all returns were in, the budget for next year had been subscribed in full, with total pledges of \$2,330.

The same pattern was followed in the canvass at Garden City Church on Nov. 11. All but about \$200 of the \$1,595 budget was met in pledges. It is anticipated that loose offerings will cover this \$200 and the budget will be met.

Brotherhood Week

(From Page 4)

in reaching up to God, we form the vertical part of the cross. But this relationship between ourselves and God is not enough. The cross is formed when we reach out our arms toward our fellow men.

We must be interested in the welfare of others. We ARE our brother's keeper.

—MGA

An open fireplace with hickory log fire in the social room of the East Tallassee Church was the setting for a New Year's Eve Watch Party for the Pilgrim Fellowship.

During the hours of waiting for midnight and the New Year, the group enjoyed singing, games, music and roasting marshmallows, with a late supper of hamburgers and potato chips. The Rev. Mr. Long and the boys were busy bringing in wood to keep the fire going.

At a few minutes before midnight, the 23 young people went to the altar and prayed. Then they rang the big church bell to welcome in the New Year.

Adult leaders present were the Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Long, Mrs. Tom Hammock and Mr. and Mrs. John C. Fralic.

Ga.-S. C. Conference Continued

(From Page 3)

to the Moderator for his fair and impartial handling of the meeting.

No other business was considered at this called meeting, since the call had been only for the purpose of consideration of the Constitution.

The Rev. James T. McAdams, interim pastor of Center Church, gave the opening worship service; the Rev. W. C. Carpenter gave the closing benediction. In the absence of Mrs. Peter Doherty, secretary, the Moderator appointed Mrs. Ione Kirkland of Pearson as secretary for this meeting only.

In observance of the recent sacred holidays, the members and community of Haleyville Union Grove Church presented Christmas programs enjoyed by all.

On Dec. 23 a large crowd attended the regular Sunday worship and exchanged gifts. At one o'clock the same day the young people, along with others, met back at the church and went to the Edith Thomson and Jack Kelley nursing homes in town. (Most of the patients are aged people) Everyone joined in singing carols and hymns to the patients and passed out fruits to them.

For the evening service a special program of carols along with other presentations accompanied the ever wonderful Christmas story, so inspiringly delivered by the pastor, the Rev. Robert Shelton.

In the latter part of December a Woman's Fellowship was organized. Meetings will be held monthly on Monday nights following each third Sunday.

The first meeting was held Dec. 17 at the church. After a brief business discussion, plans were outlined for the coming year with members taking different projects in split groups and also as a whole. Refreshments were served to attending members and several visitors.

Preceding the Christmas holidays, Mrs. Mamie Bridges, Mrs. Dell Hill, and Mrs. Cara Hill made a drive to present two needy families with Christmas boxes and money. It was successful, due to the generous support of everyone contacted.

—Mrs. Berkley H. Hill

* * * *

At a meeting of members of Nashville Brookmeade Church on Nov. 11, following a pot-luck dinner after church service, a budget was approved and a finance committee organized for the Every Member Canvass: Harry Burns, Jr., chairman, with Raymond Miller, Ed Lyman, Jules Durham, Harry Granish, Harry Hokemeir, A. A. Coult met with the pastor, the Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, and the Rev. Ira Black, director of the City Work Dept., of the Board of Home Missions.

During the EMC \$4,700 was pledged toward a \$5,600 budget. It is anticipated that the remainder will be made up during the year through new members and special projects.

The parsonage has been completed



Making plans for newly organized Women's Fellowship at Haleyville Union Grove Church: (Left to right) Mrs. Robert Shelton, Friendly Service; Mrs. C. L. Nations, president; Mrs. P. M. Pulliam, vice-president; Mrs. Dell Hill, secretary-treasurer.

Other committee chairmen elected, but not present for picture, are Mrs. Mamie Bridges, Stewardship; Mrs. Gai-ney Walker, Christian Education; Mrs. Bessie Dickinson, Missionary Education; and Mrs. Virgie Wamsley, Christian Social Action.

and the Flannery family has moved in and is getting settled.

The parsonage was planned to accommodate a nursery and Sunday School rooms for the church, which is next to the new parsonage. The nursery on Sunday mornings will be a great help to the church program.

* * * *

The January meeting of the Women's Fellowship of the United Church of Columbus was held in the Sunday School rooms on Jan. 3 with T. G. Godwin Jr. as the speaker. It was an interesting talk about the churches and people of England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, France, Italy and Germany.

Our project for the new year is putting runners in the aisles of the church. The society put a hardwood floor in the church last year at a cost of \$800.

—Mrs. Ruth Ward, president

North Ala. Asso. Continued (From Page 7)

gram. Jean Vincent, president; and Glenda Washburn, secretary - treasurer, both from Garden City, came with the Rev. Collie Seymour, Association Pastor-at-large. These officers discussed P. F. plans, program, projects and ral-

Suggested Goals For Sunday Schools In Southeast Convention

Would YOU Answer This Ad?

WANTED: Church school teacher. No training needed, short term commitment, poor equipment to work with, no resources! Perfect results expected.

The only way to get good church school teachers and officers is to make it clear that their job is a big and important one — and then give them the resources for doing it so they can see results.

This means using the best curriculum materials your denomination provides. It means leadership training. It means setting goals, and working toward them.

- 1) Every teacher spend at least one hour weekly in preparation for class.
- 2) Every teacher should call in the home of each pupil at least once a year.
- 3) The Sunday School should begin promptly with all officers and teachers present at least ten minutes ahead of time.
- 4) The Sunday School should have well-planned worship services, not opening exercises.
- 5) Church and Church school rooms should be clean, orderly, warm and ready.
- 6) Try to have a separate class for the pre-school child.
- 7) Separate classes for young people and adults.
- 8) Regular officers and teachers meetings.
- 9) Regular giving to the church and for missions.
- 10) Study to make the best use of your present space and plan to provide more adequate room to suit your growing needs.

These goals are mimeographed in more detail and may be obtained from the SEC office, 673 Piedmont Ave., N. E.

Prepared by the Christian Education Committee of the Southeast Convention.

lies with the local young people.

The Mt. Lebanon ladies served cookies, cake and coffee at the close of the meeting.

—Collie Seymour, Pastor-at-large
North Alabama Association

SURPRISE GIFT AT BROOKMEADE

Superintendent Erston M. Butterfield, his family and Mrs. Albright were invited to attend the annual meeting of Brookmeade Church on Jan. 13. The Superintendent had been asked to preach the morning sermon. Members of Brookmeade requested that points from the sermon be used in the magazine, and Mr. Butterfield has used them on his page in this issue.

Mr. Butterfield had been informed that the special event would be a skit "This Is Your Life, Brookmeade". Dr. Everett Tilson of the Vanderbilt Divinity School wrote the script and delivered the address, which was a tribute to Supt. Butterfield for his work, vision, faith and loyalty to the struggle in establishing the Brookmeade Church.

After Dr. Tilson's address, Supt. Butterfield was presented with a complete set of *The Interpreter's Bible*. On the flyleaf of Volume I the following message was inscribed, "Because it was your faith, vision and leadership that made possible the solid foundation on which our church was built, we, the members of Brookmeade Congregational Church, take great pleasure in presenting you with this set of *The Interpreter's Bible*. May the study and use of it enrich your future ministry as you have enriched the life of our church." The signatures of all the church members followed the inscription.

Mrs. Butterfield was presented with some crystal for her new home in Cleveland. Diane and Kathleen Butterfield were presented with lovely lockets. Mrs. Albright was unable to attend because of the virus; we missed her very much and sent her a copy of *Leaves of Gold*.

All presentation speeches were made by A. B. Snell, in his inimitable way, which added greatly to the spirit and fun of the occasion. The Butterfield girls were as much impressed by the presentation speech as by the gift, and Mr. Snell thanked them for "sharing their Daddy with the Church".

The loss of Supt. Butterfield will be keenly felt at Brookmeade Church where he has visited so often and done so much to help us get started.

BUTTERFIELDS HONORED AT OPEN HOUSE

The members of Central Congregational Church of Atlanta, Ga., honored the Superintendent and his family with an open house on the evening of Jan. 18 at the beautiful new home of Dr. and Mrs. Edw. L. Askren.

Guests were invited to come by between the hours of seven-thirty and ten o'clock. Hostesses were Mrs. Richard Churchill, Mrs. Ray Moseley and Mrs. Edw. T. Alsaker, with Mrs. Thomas Anderson pouring coffee and Mrs. Ralph Ferrin serving the punch.

Members of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention were also invited, and the Moderator and chairman of the Southeast Convention Board

of Directors, Odell Yancey of Langdale, Ala., presented a "love gift" of a very generous check to Mr. and Mrs. Butterfield from the people and churches of the Southeast Convention.

Words of praise and appreciation were spoken by Dr. Thomas Anderson, minister of Central Church, and he also presented Kathleen Butterfield a Bible as a gift from the Sunday School, which she would have received this spring upon graduation from the third grade.

More than a hundred people called during the evening, expressing their regret at losing the Butterfield family and wishing them well in their new field of endeavor.

SOUTHERN UNION COLLEGE NEWS

Rabbi Alfred L. Goodman, spiritual leader of Temple Israel in Columbus, Ga., represented the Jewish Chautauqua Society as lecturer at SUC on Jan. 23.

The Art Department sponsored a large exhibition of sepia photographs of the Gothic, Renaissance and Romanesque periods of French Art, held in Elder Hall Jan. 19-26. The pictures were loaned through the courtesy of the French Society of Cultural Advancement, New York City. On Jan. 26 the exhibition was closed with a special tea and lecture by Robert C. Yoh, instructor of Literature and Art at SUC.

Miss Kay Jenkins and Albert Van Cleave Jr. attended the Southeastern Regional United Student Christian Council Study Conference at Davidson College, Davidson, N. C., Dec. 27-Jan. 1. Young people "east of the Mississippi and south of the Ohio" representing many denominations and colleges assembled to study "Our United Witness in the College and University."

Officers of the campus U. S. F. are Darrell Kirby, president; Flem Messer, vice-president; and Kay Jenkins, secretary-treasurer.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Illinois College, a co-educational senior college in Jacksonville, Ill., will grant two half-tuition scholarships to Southern Union graduates beginning in September of 1957.

President Wasson said that the scho-

larship recipients will be from the upper quarter of the graduating class and will be renewable each semester for the junior and senior years provided the students maintain satisfactory standing in the college. At present, half tuition scholarship means a grant of \$250 per year. Selection will be made by the SUC scholarship committee in cooperation with the Admissions office at Illinois College.

The Illinois school is the oldest degree granting school in Illinois, being founded in 1828. About 400 students are presently enrolled. Like Southern Union, the institution is affiliated with the Congregational Christian churches of America.

GIFT TO NEW DORMITORY

Due to a combination of fortunate circumstances, the new dormitory has received some beautiful furniture for the lobby.

When Dr. Thomas Anderson, pastor of Central Congregational Church, heard from one of his members, Mrs. G. B. Adair, that the Atlantan Hotel was being re-decorated and the present lobby furnishings (recently recovered in nylon) would be given away, he immediately contacted the college to see if the furnishings could be used there.

The college was happy to send a truck to pick up the two large sofas, a three-section sofa, nine tables, eleven large table lamps and shades and two benches.

RESIGNATIONS, CALLS, AND REMOVALS

The Rev. Joe A French has accepted a call to serve the Union Christian Church at Hunterdale, Va. He and Mrs. French are moving to the field early in February.

Mr. French has been pastor of the Lanett Congregational Christian Church for the past eight years, leading the church in a successful building program. As Moderator of the Southeast Convention 1952-53, Mr. French led delegates to the adoption of a new constitution and the beginning of Superintendent Butterfield's Program of Progress, autonomy and self-support.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the SEC, and chairman of the Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship & Missionary Education 1953-56, Mr. French has been a leader in the Program of Progress.

Mr. French has served as chairman of the Board of Trustees for Southern Union College for the past five years, is a past moderator of the East Alabama Association and has served as committee chairman.

Mr. French received his A. B. degree at Elon College; his B. D. and M. A. at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

The Rev. Donald J. Ross has accepted a call to serve the South Vienna Church in the Ohio Conference. He and Mrs. Ross moved to Ohio the last week in January.

Mr. Ross served churches in the East Alabama Association for the past three and a half years: Shawmut Todd, Wadley Beulah, Dadeville Elder, Roanoke New Hope, Cragford Mt. Carmel and Garden City. He came to the SEC from Dayton, Ohio, and attended Southern Union College.

He has been active in the East Alabama Association, serving on various committees, and in the local community.

The Rev. Lynwood Hubbard has accepted a call to serve a church near Elon College in the Southern Convention. Mr. Hubbard will continue his education at Elon College. He has been pastor of the Alexander City Hunt Church



REV. and MRS. J. A. FRENCH

for the past three years, and before that served the West Point Bethel Church.

Mr. Hubbard has been active in the East Alabama Association in promoting stewardship.

The Rev. Dixon Stimpson has resigned the pastorate of the Union Hill Congregational Church of Pearson, Ga. His present plans are to leave this area around March 1st.

Mr. Stimpson has been active in the Georgia-South Carolina Conference, the South Georgia Association (of ministers and laymen for fellowship) and served on the Constitution Committee of the Conference.

The Rev. Talmage Hartman has accepted a call to the Bloomer Congregational Church in Wisconsin. Mr. Hartman was formerly pastor of Brookmeade Congregational Church in Nashville, Tenn., leading the church in its building program.

The Rev. Earl Hand has resigned from the parish of Headland Blackwood, Clio New Hope and Midland City Christian Hill Churches and accepted a call to

serve the Lanett Huguley Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Hand plan to move to the field about March 18.

Kermit Harris, lay minister from the Roanoke Lowell Church, has accepted a call to Andalusia First Church. He began his ministry the first Sunday in January, and moved to the field with his family on Jan. 25.

Mrs. L. H. Huey, church clerk and treasurer of the Roanoke First Church for many, many years, has recently suffered a heart attack and will be confined to bed for some time.

The Rev. Ridley Smith, student at Columbia Theological Seminary, has accepted a call to serve Sardis Congregational Christian Church, for full-time preaching service.

EXPLANATION . . .

Subscribers and readers of **South-east News** will note that the January and February issue has been combined. This is due to the fact that we just did not have time to get the January issue to the printers in time . . . and we did not have enough copy in to fill it! So, we decided the best thing to do was to combine the two months into a good magazine and get back on the earlier mailing date.

From now on, PLEASE try to get your news to us before the 15th of each month. It takes about ten days to get it all typed and the lay-out made for the printer. Then it takes another ten days or two weeks to get it printed and mailed. This means that we MUST get the copy to the printer by the first of each month if we are to get the magazine mailed out to you by the 15th.

Here in the Convention office we have been "snowed under" by various meetings relative to obtaining a new superintendent, trying to finish up a great many things before Mr. Butterfield left, and the Year Book tabulations. We are sorry to have missed getting out the January issue, but it just could not be helped.